

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-7 are rejected, and claims 2 and 8 are objected to. Claims 9-27 are allowed. By this paper, claims 1-8 are canceled, and new claims 28-39 are added. Based on the following, allowance of each of the pending claims is requested.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,419,304 (Sangimino). By this paper, claims 1 and 3-7 are canceled without prejudice to facilitate issuance of a patent containing the allowed claims. Applicants note that it is their intent to pursue allowance of claims 1 and 3-7 in a continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 2 and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. By this paper, claims 2 and 8 are canceled and each has been rewritten in independent form as claims 28 and 35, respectively. Original claim 2 depended directly from claim 1, with no intervening claims. Claim 28 includes all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2, and is therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 29-34 respectively contain the limitations of claims 3-8, but each claim was rewritten to have new claim 28 as its base claim. Therefore, new claims 29-34 are each believed to be allowable.

Claim 1 was the base claim for original claim 8, with claim 7 being the only intervening claim. New claim 35 includes all of the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 8, and is therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 36-39 respectively contain the limitations of claims

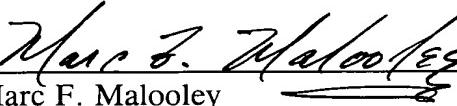
3-6, and each has been drafted to depend directly from claim 35. Therefore, each of claims 36-39 is believed to be allowable.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 9-27, and request allowance of each of the remaining claims.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$400.00 to cover additional claims, as well as any additional fees, or credit any overpayment in connection with this filing, to Ford Global Technologies LLC, Deposit Account No. 06-1510. A duplicate of this transmittal letter is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Kim et al.

By 
Marc F. Malooley
Reg. No. 50,624
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351